

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 DOTE-00 /112 W

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P 161616 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1224

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO: COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) LONDON 5607, (B) WEBB- FORD TELECON

1. WE DISCUSSED WITH BRITISH QUESTION OF ADDING AMENDMENT ITEM TO COUNCIL AGENDA AND THEY SAY THAT THEIR DECISION TO GO FOR AN ASSEMBLY INTERPRETATION OR AMENDMENT OF IMCO CONVENTION WAS A CALCULATED ONE, TAKEN AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION IN HMG. THEY FEEL THEY ARE FULLY COMMITTED AND CANNOT TURN BACK AT THIS POINT SINCE THEIR PROPOSAL HAS GONE OUT TO ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THEY WOULD THEREFORE INSIST THAT ITEM BE PLACED ON FORTHCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA.

2. SYG GOAD HAS ASKED IF WE CAN GET QUICK DECISION FROM EDWARDS. IF SECRETARIAT PAPER ON PROPOSED ITEM IS NOT MAILED THIS WEEK IT WILL FAIL REACH MOST COUNCIL REPS BEFORE THEY LEAVE CAPITALS, AND IMCO SECRETARIAT CONCERNED ABOUT CRITICISM THAT WILL ENSUE OVER LATE CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT. FYI GOAD SAID HE RECEIVED LETTER OF MAY 11 FROM EDWARDS WHO WROTE ABOUT PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN WAY THAT LEADS GOAD TO BELIEVE EDWARDS DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND BASIC ISSUE. END FYI.

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3. RULE 13 OF COUNCIL RULES PROVIDES THAT AGENDA " SHALL"
INCLUDE: "... (D) ANY ITEM PROPOSED BY A MEMBER OF THE
ORGANIZATION...." LEGAL DIVISION HEAD MENSAH TELLS US
THAT THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL WAY OF KEEPING ITEM OFF
COUNCIL AGENDA, AND NO POSSIBILITY BLOCKING IT IN
COUNCIL OR GETTING IT REFERRED FROM COUNCIL TO ANOTHER
IMCO BODY. ALL COUNCIL CAN DO IS DECIDE WHERE UK
PROPOSAL SHOULD BE PLACED ON AGENDA OF ASSEMBLY. HE
BELIEVES US AND LIKE- MINDED MEMBERS COULD MARSHALL
LOBBYING FORCES BETWEEN COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER
AND WOULD EASILY PREVAIL IN LATTER BODY, EITHER BY
GETTING (1) APPROPRIATE ASSEMBLY INTERPRETATION OF
ARTICLE 43(B) OR (2) REFERRAL OF ISSUE TO LEGAL COMMIT-
TEE OR MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE OR BOTH.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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